

June 18, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: David Harrell

RE: COMMITTEE REQUEST: INVOLVEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION ACT*

During the December 2011 interim meeting, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard a presentation about the implementation of the *Early Childhood Care and Education Act* (ECCEA, Laws 2011, Chapter 123). As the discussion progressed, two committee members expressed their concern about the seemingly limited involvement of Native Americans; and the Vice Chair asked a representative of one of the groups making the presentation — the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership, or NMECDP — for an account of the extent to which Native Americans had been involved in the implementation of the ECCEA and the work of the NMECDP.

In response, Ms. Katherine Freeman, Chair, and Ms. Lillian Montoya-Rael, Program Manager, NMECDP, submitted the attached letter. Among other points, this letter:

- notes that diverse representation and participation has been a priority of the work of the NMECDP;
- lists the methods by which the NMECDP recruited Native Americans to serve on the implementation teams and to attend the community meetings;
- identifies a number of participants who represent Native American interests, tribes, or pueblos; and

- identifies three Native American members of the NMECDP Advisory Board and one Native American member of the Early Learning Advisory Council, which was created by the ECCEA to lead the development of a high-quality, comprehensive system of early childhood development and care.